

## IN THE CLAIMS

1        Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An axle suspension system for a load-bearing vehicle including first and second longitudinally extending frame members having rearward and forward ends, comprising:

5        first and second mounting brackets secured to said first and second frame members, respectively; said first and second mounting brackets extending downwardly from said first and second frame members, respectively;

      a first lower control arm, having forward and rearward ends, pivotally secured at its said forward end to said first mounting bracket and extending rearwardly therefrom;

10       a second lower control arm, having forward and rearward ends, pivotally secured at its said forward end to said second mounting bracket and extending rearwardly therefrom;

15       first and second axle supports positioned rearwardly of said first and second mounting brackets, respectively;

      said rearward end of said first lower control arm being pivotally secured to said first axle support;

      said rearward end of said second lower control arm being pivotally secured to said second axle support;

20       an axle and wheel assembly operatively secured to said first and second axle supports;

      first and second air springs operatively secured to said axle and wheel assembly;

1 and a one-piece stabilizer bar assembly including an elongated, generally transversely  
extending base portion having first and second generally forwardly extending end  
portions at opposite ends thereof;

said end portions having forward ends;

5 said first and second forwardly extending end portions of said stabilizer bar assembly  
being pivotally connected at their said forward ends to said first and second  
mounting brackets, respectively, above said first and second lower control arms,  
respectively;

10 said base portion of said stabilizer bar assembly being pivotally connected to said first  
and second axle supports above said first and second lower control arms.

Claim 2 (Original): The structure of claim 1 wherein resilient bushings pivotally  
connect said base portion of said stabilizer bar assembly to said first and second axle  
supports.

15 Claim 3 (Original): The structure of claim 1 wherein said first generally forwardly  
extending end portion of said stabilizer bar assembly extends outwardly from said first  
axle support, thence forwardly, thence inwardly and forwardly, and thence forwardly  
towards said first mounting bracket and wherein said second generally forwardly  
20 extending end portion of said stabilizer bar assembly extends outwardly from said  
second axle support, thence forwardly, thence inwardly and forwardly, and thence  
forwardly towards said second mounting bracket.

Claim 4 (Canceled)

Claim 5 (Canceled)

Claim 6 (Previously Canceled)

Claim 7 (Previously Canceled)

Claim 8 (New): An axle suspension system for a load-bearing vehicle including first and second longitudinally extending frame members having rearward and forward ends, comprising:

first and second mounting brackets secured to said first and second frame members, respectively;

a first lower control arm, having forward and rearward ends, pivotally secured at its said forward end to said first mounting bracket and extending rearwardly therefrom;

a second lower control arm, having forward and rearward ends, pivotally secured at its said forward end to said second mounting bracket and extending rearwardly therefrom;

first and second axle supports positioned rearwardly of said first and second mounting brackets, respectively;

said rearward end of said first lower control rod being pivotally secured to said first axle support;

said rearward end of said second lower control rod being pivotally secured to said second axle support;

an axle and wheel assembly operatively secured to said first and second axle supports;

first and second air springs operatively secured to said axle and wheel assembly;

1 and a stabilizer bar assembly including an elongated, generally transversely extending  
base portion having first and second generally forwardly extending end portions  
at the opposite ends thereof;

said end portions having forward ends;

5 said first and second forwardly extending end portions of said stabilizer bar assembly  
being pivotally connected at their said forward ends to said first and second  
mounting brackets, respectively, above said first and second lower control rods,  
respectively;

10 said base portion of said stabilizer bar assembly being pivotally connected to said first  
and second axle supports above said first and second lower control rods;

15 said first generally forwardly extending end portion of said stabilizer bar assembly  
extending outwardly from said first axle support, thence forwardly, thence  
inwardly and forwardly, and thence forwardly towards said first mounting bracket  
and wherein said second generally forwardly extending end portion of said  
stabilizer bar assembly extends outwardly from said second axle support, thence  
forwardly, thence inwardly and forwardly, and thence forwardly towards said  
second mounting bracket;

20 said base portion of said stabilizer bar assembly extending inwardly and forwardly from  
its pivotal connection with said first axle support, thence inwardly, thence  
outwardly and rearwardly to its pivotal connection with said second axle support.

Claim 9 (New): An axle suspension system for a load-bearing vehicle including  
1 first and second longitudinally extending frame members having rearward and forward  
ends, comprising:

first and second mounting brackets secured to said first and second frame members,  
5 respectively;

a first lower control arm, having forward and rearward ends, pivotally secured at its said  
forward end to said first mounting bracket and extending rearwardly therefrom;

a second lower control arm, having forward and rearward ends, pivotally secured at its  
said forward end to said second mounting bracket and extending rearwardly  
10 therefrom;

first and second axle supports positioned rearwardly of said first and second mounting  
brackets, respectively;

said rearward end of said first lower control rod being pivotally secured to said first axle  
15 support;

said rearward end of said second lower control rod being pivotally secured to said  
second axle support;

an axle and wheel assembly operatively secured to said first and second axle supports;

20 first and second air springs operatively secured to said axle and wheel assembly;

and a stabilizer bar assembly including an elongated, generally transversely extending  
base portion having first and second generally forwardly extending end portions  
at the opposite ends thereof;

said end portions having forward ends;

1       said first and second forwardly extending end portions of said stabilizer bar assembly  
being pivotally connected at their said forward ends to said first and second  
mounting brackets, respectively, above said first and second lower control rods,  
respectively;

5       said base portion of said stabilizer bar assembly being pivotally connected to said first  
and second axle supports above said first and second lower control rods;

10       said base portion of said stabilizer bar assembly extending inwardly and forwardly from  
its pivotal connection with said first axle support, thence inwardly, thence  
outwardly and rearwardly to its pivotal connection with said second axle support.